

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN

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To the President and Board of Directors of the Bloomfield Publishing Co.

GENTLEMEN:

With the number for this present week I would be pleased to have my responsible connection with the Editorial Board of THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN come to an end. The paper has now secured the sympathy and co-operation of the community to such an extent as to guarantee its permanent progress and success.

Our financial attitude, as you are well aware, is also very gratifying.

And now the increase of my pastoral duties, and the necessity for using what leisure I can get for other studies, make it prudent for me to be released.

You will please, therefore, to accept this note as my formal resignation of whatever position I have had upon the Editorial Staff. With the kindest remembrance of my association with the other editors—a remembrance unmixed with any recollection of a single disagreement or even jangle in our counsels—and with the best wishes for the future, I remain.

Very truly yours, etc.,

SAMUEL W. DUFFIELD.

THE BAZAR.

While THE CITIZEN is turning over in bed—Friday being a holiday—the Bazaar is in full blast. It was a happy thought to utilize the energy of the Young Enthusiasts in this wholesome direction. Since there was to be no fire, and since, indeed, fire seem to have been regularly scared away—what better could one do than this!

We cast our prophetic eye forward and behold the vision which "Essex No. 1" is—as we trust—fully realizing, while these sentences are climbing into type. We see the fair faces and graceful figures of the "girls that love the firemen" as they move about, arrayed in "Martha Washington" and "Charity Bob" costumes intermingled with "Peasant" and "Rebecca" and "Chocolate Girl" attire. We hear the lively pop of the "Shooting Gallery," and perceive the enthusiasm over the "Silk Quilt"; the "Rubber Suit"; the "Braithwaite's Retrospect" and the delusive "Grab Bag." We struggle into the Town Committee Room where McDodd's shop no longer contends with the Truck House, and where all sorts of curiosities are on exhibition. Here our prophetic soul would faint delay us, that we might elucidate the mystery of Dr. Clapp's three faithful wives, and interrogate the historic damask of Mary Queen of Scott's bed curtains.

We have done our best to anticipate the style of the weather in this dream of what is coming; but we cannot do that, try we never so patiently. We can only extend our hand to the Truck Company, and with it THE CITIZEN's earnest desire that they may live long and prosper abundantly; and that the Bazaar with all its pieces may end in entire prosperity and peace.

HAPPINESS AND FARMING.

We had fondly hoped these might evermore be united. While all the rest of the world was worrying over the apple of discord, we knew at least that contentment and happiness were only to be found on a farm. For had we not read the idyllic measures of Horace and Virgil, and is not our own literature full of pork and beans and pumpkin pie?

The husking bees, the dancing frolic, where, oh, where, are they gone? From all over the earth we have heard the wail of distress; from Egypt, from India, from England, and from our own fair Jersey plains has come the same doleful cry, "the farmer's life is not a happy one." And so the discontented farmer had to be reasoned with, investigated, legislated for, like the rest of perplexed and dissatisfied humanity. Yes, a whole department must be organized to send him seeds, free in delivery, with big books full of blood-red illustrations, and trichina, phylloxera, and a host of other hard names. Then our gifted city editors took up the strain, ending with the advice to go west, go north, go south, go—anywhere,

but don't stay at home unless you want to starve. Then while ex-Commissioner Le Due and his successor have been warming their pots in the desperate hope of making profitable sugar from corn stalks, the resolute farmer has been working out his destiny and solves the problem with early vegetables, small fruits and poultry.

Now comes Mr. William Walter Phelps with his statistics from the last census, showing that the Jersey farmer is better off than his western neighbor, puts him upon the back, talks of the attractions of the neighboring city, and advises him to stay at home.

Beyond the sea, the gifted Gladstone makes the suggestion that jam and fresh eggs may save our British neighbor.

Thus farming and happiness are again united; Horace and Virgil are vindicated; the poetry of New England is revived, and farm life resumes its wonted aspect of peace and plenty. We are glad it is so. We command that lecture to the dyspeptic and bilious. But is it worth while to fly to the uttermost parts of the earth whenever some slight shift in trade takes away your profits? Or, does staying at home necessarily mean Micawberism? Or, are pluck, energy, and enterprise useless in the solution of agricultural as well as other problems?

THE SOUDAN.

Littlell's Living Age of February 2d contains a long article by Sir Samuel Baker, formerly Governor of the Soudan, in which he asks and answers the following questions: "What is the Soudan?" "Is the Soudan worth keeping?" "Why not give it up?" The article referred to is quite too long to be reprinted, and is easily obtained by our readers whose interest in the subject would lead them to an examination of details, but the questions asked by the writer are difficult to answer from the meagre information furnished by the newspapers, but they are fully treated in the paper printed in the Living Age.

According to Sir Samuel Baker, the Soudan now embraces the whole of that vast region which comprises the deserts of Nubia, Libya, the ancient Meroe, Dongola, Kordofan, Darfur, Sennar and the entire Nile Basin, bordered on the east by Abyssinia, and elsewhere by doubtful frontiers. The Red Sea upon the east alone confines the Egyptian limit at an unquestionable line.

This entire country is traversed by the Nile from south to north, a distance of over twenty-five hundred miles, nearly twelve hundred of which are through the great deserts. The upper half nearest the mouth of the Nile is traversed by numerous rivers, and is within what is known as the rainy belt, and is surprisingly fertile, but the twelve hundred miles of desert which lie between it and Alexandria deprive it of all its markets and render the well watered plains almost as valueless to the world at large as the burning sands themselves, which, without the camel, would be like an ocean devoid of vessels, and absolutely impassable by man.

A camel will travel thirty miles per day for four days, making one hundred and twenty miles in all before requiring a fresh supply of water. The time was when a difference of opinion as to a word in the creed of the Christian Church terminated in strife and even to bloodshed. Because men did not agree with ruling opinions it was thought proper, in times past, to grill them on gridiron or torture them on the rack. But in a metropolis, where views should be broader and toleration more generous, this spectacle of D. D. rs. M. D. is truly pitiful. We do not enter into the merits of the case. Dr. Newman has been a good while before the American nation in a conspicuous, and not always an agreeable attitude. Dr. Ranney has also been known and influential during two previous administrations in that cast-iron meeting-house, which, of itself as a building, might easily vitiate a constant worshippers' sense of the dignities and proprieties of religious service.

Perhaps the civil courts will take a hand in the business before all is done. And then it will be more fit for us to comment on the affair. Yet when we remember how even a simple lead fly causes the continent of the apothecary to send forth a bad smell, we must lament any such church quarrel as this. It has a national importance. It sets a bad example to other churches everywhere. It encourages on the ministry a place-seeking and possibly a haughty spirit, and certainly it causes the questions of money—or debt-paying, of the personal influence of a preacher with the pockets of his personal friends—to assume altogether too prominent a position. On the other hand it stimulates any one who happens to hold an official place of some distinction, to feel that he can resist and overcome the will of a congregational majority. The Church in which such an ugly element rears its head requires great prudence to conduct it. Ecclesiastical order—and this is true of every portion of the Christian Church, whether Catholic or Roman Catholic—is severely tested by the presence of a headstrong and fractious minority. And if it can be alleged, on behalf of this minority, that it has some good show of reasons for the stand which it takes, the trouble is aggravated.

The development of the Soudan should be encouraged and positively undertaken by England, now that events are driving her to assume a responsible control. At present the country is in a state of nature and nothing has been done by the government to encourage the industry of the people, on the contrary they have been ill-treated and oppressed.

The English who have visited the Soudan may be counted upon the fingers, and yet we hear a cry from the lips of ignorance, "Give up the Soudan." If the Soudan were abandoned the following consequences would assuredly ensue, which would ultimately endanger the existence and civilization of lower Egypt.

The entire Soudan, which is inhabited by many and various races, would relapse into complete anarchy and savagery; a constant civil war would be waged. Cultivation of the soil would be interrupted and trade would cease. The worst elements of debased human nature would be uncontrolled, and the whole energies of the population would be concentrated on the slave trade with Turkey. Should the Soudan be lost to Egypt the control

of the Nile will have ceased. There will be no scope for future extension, and the commerce of the interior will be ruined.

It has been frequently asked for what object is this rebellion headed by the Mahdi? Why is a population that was hitherto so docile and easily governed suddenly exasperated into revolt?

Egypt had withdrawn her forces and was in arms against herself. The oppression of the representatives of the Khedive had provoked a feeling of hostility which only waited for an opportunity to make itself felt. That opportunity had now come. The Mahdi, a dervish named Mahomed Ashmeft, took advantage of the general confusion of affairs and gathered a small army of malcontents. A series of gross acts of mismanagement on the part of the Soudan authorities increased the influence of this extraordinary character and a succession of defeats of the government forces at the hands of badly armed Arabs produced a contempt for the Egyptian troops of whom the population had stood in awe.

The success he has now achieved increases the danger of a general uprising of the Arab tribes throughout the Soudan.

If this rebellion is to be suppressed, the government of the Soudan must be reorganized under British supervision, for the Egyptian officials are hopeless. There should be a combination of force together with diplomacy and a determination on the part of the authorities to administer justice.

The liberal administration under Mr. Gladstone is charged with the responsibility of this enterprise and is already at the bar of public opinion to give an account for its evasion. Meanwhile the great powers of Europe stand waiting to see what England will do, and if her decision is not prompt and decided her control of Egypt and of the Mediterranean may be forever lost.

IN RE NEWMAN VS. RANNEY.

When a great secular daily journal—a "gentleman's paper," too—can give from a column to a column and a half of space to a religious difficulty in each issue, the facts are ominous. They prove, without more ado, that there are two sides to the debate; that the general public is interested and demands the information; and that no partisan attitude is expected.

These things, we say, are ominous. They show to any thoughtful reader that in the affair of the Madison Ave. Congregational Church, Dr. Newman is not regarded as wholly right, and that Dr. Ranney is not considered to be wholly wrong.

But the prevalence and continuance of the trouble demonstrate that neither party is looked upon as helping forward any large amount of valuable Christian influence upon the outside world.

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